

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please add the following new paragraph beginning at page 8, between lines 22 and 23, as follows:

Fig. 3A is a cross-sectional view of an upper casing according to an alternate embodiment;

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 13, as follows:

Although with the strut sliding bearing 1 the lower casing 5 is constructed by including the inner peripheral-side cylindrical projecting portion 27 and the outer peripheral-side cylindrical projecting portion 28, alternatively or additionally, the strut sliding bearing 1 may be constructed by arranging the upper casing 3 by including an inner peripheral-side cylindrical suspended portion 15 which is similar to the inner peripheral-side cylindrical projecting portion 27 and is integrally suspended downward from the annular lower surface 2 on the radially inner peripheral side, as well as an outer peripheral-side cylindrical suspended portion 15.1 (Fig. 3A) which is similar to the outer peripheral-side cylindrical projecting portion 28 and is integrally suspended downward from the annular lower surface 2 on the radially outer peripheral side, and by disposing the thrust sliding bearing piece 6 between the inner peripheral-side cylindrical suspended portion 15 and the outer peripheral-side cylindrical suspended portion 15.1.